

US Office of Personnel Management: Dory E. Zamani, Supervisory Financial Management Specialist; Wesley H. Shimamura, Supervisory Personnel Management Specialist; Deborah A. Kendall, Special Assistant, Congressional Relations; Linda M. Watson, Personnel Staff Specialist; James J. Tsugawa, Personnel Management Specialist; Lina A. Savkar, Employee Development Specialist; Phong V. Ngo, Program Analyst; Teresa Chi Chao Yang Huang, Computer Systems Analyst; James Hong, Supervisory Personnel Staffing Specialist; Jeri T. Hara, Personnel Management Specialist; Jaime P. Espiritu, Computer Systems Analyst; May S. Eng, Statistician, Survey; Esterlita De Leon Cueto, Systems Accountant; Sherman M. Chin, Personnel Management Specialist; and Susai Anthony, Computer Programmer Analyst.

Social Security Administration: Glennalee Donnelly, Senior Executive Service, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, Office of Programs and Policy; Tina Sung, Senior Executive Service, On Assignment to the National Performance Review; Leslie S. Chin, Division Director, Office of Systems; Dinesh Kumar, Executive Assistant to the Associate Commissioner for Telecommunications and Systems Operations; Yuan Jye Liu, Supervisory Computer Specialist, Office of Hearings and Appeals; Donna Y. Mukogawa, Assistant Regional Commissioner for Processing Center Operations, Chicago, Illinois; Chih Yuan D. Wang, Computer Specialist, Office of the Commissioner; Seung H. An Actuary, Office of the Actuary; Lyman Goon, General Attorney, Office of the General Counsel; Gordon C. Gonzalez, Field Office Manager, Pasadena, Texas; Alan W. Heim, Field Office Manager, Anchorage, Alaska; Li Ming Koo, Senior Computer Systems Specialist, Office of Hearings and Appeals; Kenneth M. Lew, Supervisory Criminal Investigator, Office of the Inspector General; Jane Y. Lim, Field Office Manager, Parsippany, New Jersey; Sze Jui Lui, Medical Officer, Office of Human Resources; Martin W. Long, General Attorney, Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Dallas; Maynard K. Malabey, Supervisory Management Analyst, Office of Operations; Thomas J. McCullough, Field Office Manager, Sarasota, Florida; Gloria L. Tong, Program Analyst, Office of the Commissioner; Yen T. Tra, Senior Computer Systems Specialist, Office of Hearings and Appeals; Jack H. Trudel, Supervisory Auditor, Office of the Inspector General, Richmond, California; Wanda H. Waldman, Field Office Manager, Santa Ana, California; Mitchi A. Weger, Field Office Manager, San Antonio, Texas; and Mark E. Young, Field Office Manager, Bremerton, Washington.

US Agency for International Development: Kumar Krishna, Program Analyst; Carla Montemayor Royalty, Administrative Officer; Gloria Steele, Program Analyst Officer; Rodney S. Azama, International Trade Specialist; Paula Y. Bagasao, Senior Advisor; Dirk W. Dikjeran, Support Program Officer; and Kiertisak Toh, Foreign Affairs Officer.

My warmest congratulations to all of these individuals, and other Asian Pacific American Federal employees not listed, for their labor and accomplishments.

As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus, I am pleased to commend the Asian Pacific American community for all it has at-

tained in the past year. We are a growing part of this diverse nation and will only continue to increase the number of successes we are able to celebrate. I would like to extend to all a happy Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GOSS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GOSS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

COMMEMORATE ASIAN-PACIFIC HERITAGE MONTH BY HONORING THE FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to commemorate Asian-Pacific Heritage Month by speaking of a group of true heroes of World War II—the Filipino World War II veterans.

Upon arrival in Congress, I soon learned about the plight of the Filipino World War II veterans—many of whom have died and others who are now in the twilight of their years. I learned that these soldiers were drafted to serve in our Armed Forces by an executive order of President Roosevelt. I learned that they defended the American flag in the now-famous battles of Bataan and Corregidor. I learned that thousands of Filipino prisoners of war died during the Bataan death march and while imprisoned under inhuman conditions. I learned that their actions foiled plans for a quick takeover of the region and allowed the United States the time needed to prepare forces for victory in the Pacific.

Then I learned, unbelievably, that soon after the war was over, Congress voted to take away the benefits and recognition that these Filipino veterans were promised, in the Re-Scissions Act of 1946.

Filipino World War II veterans and their families have been waiting for over 50 years for the justice, recognition, and benefits that they so richly deserve. I am proud that the President and Congress took the first step last year to restore their dignity by resolving to recognize these brave veterans for their contributions to the successful outcome of the war.

Now it is time to complete the job. Last year, over 100 Members of this body signed on as cosponsors to the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. This year, I have joined with Congressman BEN GILMAN to reintroduce this legislation (H.R. 836)—and we believe it is time to hold hearings on the issue of equity for Filipino World War II veterans.

What better way to celebrate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month than to take action on behalf of the Filipino World War II veterans, many of whom have become citizens of the United States.

What better way than to finally correct a monumental injustice and to restore the benefits promised to the Filipino World War II veterans for their defense of democratic ideals.

Words to commemorate Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month are fine, but action is better. Join with me in demanding justice and equity for Filipino World War II veterans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. CAMP] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. CAMP addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. MATSUI] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues in commemorating Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and recognize the many achievements and contributions Asian-Pacific Americans have made to our country. I would also like to thank my colleague from Hawaii, Representative PATSY MINK, for arranging this special order.

The month of May was permanently designated Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month in 1992. Since then, it has become a wonderful opportunity to recognize the many ways in which Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have enriched our Nation. I would like to take this moment to reflect on the diversity and richness that have so benefited our country.

Asian and Pacific Islanders have a rich history in America that spans over 150 years. As immigrants Asian and Pacific Islanders brought with them unique skills and abilities that enhanced the diversity and richness of our society. Asian-Pacific Americans added to the fabric of our culture through the sharing of values, customs, and perspectives. These same immigrants helped build our rapidly growing Nation during the turn of the century, expanding industries and cultivating farmland in the West.

Over the years, the American experience transformed Asian immigrants as they have in turn transformed America. We, as a nation of immigrants, have shared the same hopes and the same dreams. As a diverse people, Asian-Pacific Americans have enriched our national character. In every area of society, from the arts to business, people of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry have excelled. In the process, Asian-Pacific Americans have become an integral part of our country's past, and of our country's future.

As one of the fastest growing groups in the Nation, recent Asian-Pacific American immigrants infuse a passionate sense of optimism in the American dream. America has benefited from their collective energy and vision. As these immigrants embrace the ideals and traditions of American life, we must also embrace them and the diversity and new ideas they